

STATEMENT OF REP. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property Subcommittee
Markup of H. Con. Res. 53, sense of Congress
regarding the issuance of the 500,000th design patent
Wednesday, March 9, 2005

I rise in support of this legislation and thank my colleagues, Subcommittee Chairman Lamar Smith and Subcommittee Ranking Member Howard Berman, for cosponsoring it, and Chairman Sensenbrenner for scheduling it for markup.

On December 21, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued the 500,000th design patent to DaimlerChrysler Corporation for the design of the Chrysler Crossfire. House Concurrent Resolution 53 expresses the sense of Congress that the Patent and Trademark Office has contributed significantly to the Nation's economy and that DaimlerChrysler and its employees should be commended for their achievement.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am well aware of the importance of intellectual property protection to our economy. Intellectual property rewards and encourages innovation and advancement; without it, we would not have the high-tech, biotech, and everyday inventions that we have come to rely upon in everyday life.

I also am proud of this patent because I happen to represent the automobile capital of the world. It is no secret that Michigan boasts the finest auto workers in the world, and it should be no surprise that it is the design of an American car that received the award.

It is for these reasons that I, along with other members who recognize the importance of intellectual property protection and several members of Michigan's congressional delegation, are recognizing this occasion.

I urge my colleagues to vote "Yes" on this legislation.